

May 21, 2002

**Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification**

**Mattole Restoration Council  
Mill Creek Watershed Restoration Project  
Humboldt County**

On May 6, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Mattole Restoration Council requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Mill Creek Watershed Restoration Project in Humboldt County. The application was deemed complete. The application covers disturbances to waters of the United States associated with culvert upgrades, road decommissioning, stream crossing excavation, outslope treatment, inboard ditch removal, and streambank stabilization.

The proposed project is located in Township 2S, Range 2W of the Petrolia USGS Quadrant, Humboldt County, California. The nearest receiving water is Mill Creek, located in the Cape Mendocino Hydrologic Unit No.112.00.

The purpose of the project is to improve and protect aquatic habitat for salmonids by providing cost-effective treatment for accelerated erosion and sediment yield associated with the Matthews Ranch Road and the Mill Creek watershed. Restorative treatments have been identified and prioritized by Pacific Watershed Associates' subbasin sediment delivery site inventory. Various treatments, including culvert upgrades, road decommissioning, stream crossing excavation, outslope treatment, inboard ditch removal and stream bank stabilization will be applied at 23 sites. Following a comprehensive watershed assessment process, the Mattole Restoration Council determined that sediment reduction efforts are their highest priority treatment for the Mill Creek subbasin.

The California Department of Fish and Game, acting as the lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, has determined that this project qualifies for Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA.

The restoration project is scheduled to begin June 15, 2002 and end by October 15, 2002. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3855-3861. Comments on this project should be submitted to Kirsten James at [jamek@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:jamek@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.